



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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7/8/03

First Named Inventor: Bathe

Examiner: Kerr, K

App. No.: 09/941,936

Group Art Unit: 1652

Filed: August 30, 2001

For: NUCLEOTIDE SEQUENCES CODING FOR THE sigC GENE

RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT

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Commissioner for Patents
PO Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

This is in response to the Office Action mailed June 4, 2003 regarding the above identified patent application. The Office Action required Applicants to restrict prosecution of the claims in this application to:

- Group I. Claims 1-12 and 30 (drawn to polynucleotides coding for the sigC gene, vectors and host cells thereof);
- Group II. Claim 13 (drawn to a *Corynebacterium* strain containing a shuttle vector);
- Group III. Claim 14-29 (drawn to methods of making L-amino acids); or
- Group IV. Claims 31 and 32 (drawn to methods for isolating nucleic acids related to the sigC gene).

Applicants hereby elect Group III (claims 14-29, drawn to methods of making L-amino acids). Applicants reserve the right to file divisional applications for the non-elected claims in due course.

Applicants submit that the application is now in condition for examination on the merits.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date : July 3, 2003

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* Practice is limited to matters and proceeding before federal courts and agencies.